

Preliminary Amendment
CPA of Appln. No.: 09/170,225

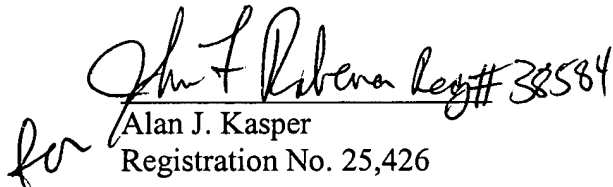
REMARKS

Applicant has amended the claims in order to define the invention accurately, in accordance with the disclosure of the present application. Further, the dependency of the dependent claims 3, 4 and 7-9 has been changed and claims 2 and 6 have been canceled. Finally, Applicant wishes to note that the rubber hardness standard referenced in the claims relates to the shore A scale, as noted in the specification at page 5, line 1. Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

Finally, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned, prior to preparation of a further Office Action, in order to arrange for an interview to discuss the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants representative can be reached at the local telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 6 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A feed belt, adapted to feeding members comprising at least one of papers, tickets, bank notes, plastic or paper cards and coins, comprising:

an elastic material having a hardness corresponding to rubber hardness 15 to 90; *Shore A scale*

10 to 70 percent by weight of high hardness particles dispersed throughout the elastic material, said high hardness particles having a particle diameter of 3 to 300 μ m;

characterized in that the high hardness particles project from a feed surface of the belt, where the projecting amount of the high hardness particles increases with the elasticity of the elastic material when a member to be fed is fed, and the projecting amount of the high hardness particles varies according to the pressure applied to the belt from an external source, [which said] where the pressure applied to the belt from an external source varies with the shape or hardness of the member to be fed [and the projecting amount of said high hardness particles varies according to the shape and hardness of said high hardness particles].

3. (Amended) A feed belt according to claim 1 [2], further comprising a filament which is disposed in a central portion of the belt.

4. (Amended) A feed belt according to claim 1 [2], further comprising a filament which is disposed on a [the] driving surface side of the belt.

5. (Amended) A feed belt, adapted to feeding members comprising at least one of papers, tickets, bank notes, plastic or paper cards and coins, comprising:

a base material layer formed of a first elastic material having a hardness corresponding to rubber hardness 15 to 90;

a high hardness particle containing layer comprising:

a second elastic material having [different from said first elastic material]
a hardness corresponding to rubber hardness 15 to 90;

10 to 70 percent by weight of high hardness particles dispersed throughout the second elastic material, said high hardness particles having a particle diameter of 3 to 300 μm ;

characterized in that the high hardness particles project from a feed surface, where the projecting amount of the high hardness particles increases with the elasticity of at least the second elastic material when a member to be fed is fed, and the projecting amount of the high hardness particles varies according to the pressure applied to the belt from an external source, [which said] where the pressure applied to the belt from an external source varies with the shape or hardness of the member to be fed [and the projecting amount of said high hardness particles varies according to the shape and hardness of said high hardness particles].

7. (Amended) A feed belt according to claim [6] 5, further comprising a filament which is disposed in a central portion of the belt, the base material layer being formed on a driving surface side of the belt, and the high hardness particle containing layer being formed on a feed surface side of the belt.

8. (Amended) A feed belt according to claim [6] 5, further comprising a filament which is disposed on a driving surface side of the belt.

9. (Amended) A feed belt according to claim [6] 5, wherein the hardness of the second elastic material is less than the hardness of the first elastic material.

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Claim 10 is added as a new claim.

10. (New) A feed belt according to claim 5, wherein the second elastic material has properties different from said first elastic material and wherein the hardness of the second elastic material is more than the hardness of the first elastic material.

5. (Twice Amended) A feed belt comprising :

a base material layer formed of a first elastic material;

a high hardness particle containing layer comprising:

a second elastic material different from said first elastic material; and

high hardness particles dispersed throughout the second elastic material,

characterized in that the high hardness particles project from a feed surface, where the projecting amount of said high hardness particles increases with the elasticity of at least the second elastic material when a member to be fed is fed, and the projecting amount of said high hardness particles varies according to the pressure applied to the belt from an external source, which said pressure applied to the belt from an external source varies with the shape or hardness of the member to be fed, and the projecting amount of said high hardness particles varies according to the shape and hardness of said high hardness particles.

6. (Twice Amended) A feed belt comprising:

a base material layer formed of a first elastic material having a hardness corresponding to rubber hardness 15 to 90;

a high hardness particle containing layer comprising:

10 to 70 percent by weight of high hardness particles dispersed throughout said

high hardness particle containing layer, said high hardness particles having a particle

diameter of 3 to 300 μm ; and

a second elastic material having a hardness corresponding to rubber hardness 15 to 90 and containing said high hardness particles.